

## FARM DEBT RATIO HIGHER

New York farm debt increased 5 percent from 1996 to 1997. The level of debt, \$2.35 billion, was at its highest point since 1986. Real estate debt accounted for 36 percent of the total. However, at \$839 million, fell about one and one-half percent from 1996. New real estate debt increased 9 percent from a year earlier and accounted for the rest of farm debt. Farm assets in 1997 totaled \$13.0 billion, in New York, one percent below 1996. As a result, the debt-asset ratio increased one point to 18.1, its highest mark since 1989. The debt-equity ratio in 1997 was 22.2, its highest also since 1989.

With 38,000 farms in New York during 1997, assets per farm averaged \$341,000 compared with \$345,000 in the previous year. Debt per farm averaged \$62,000 in 1997 compared with \$59,000 in 1996.

Figure 1.  
**FARM BALANCE SHEET**  
New York, December 31, 1988-1997

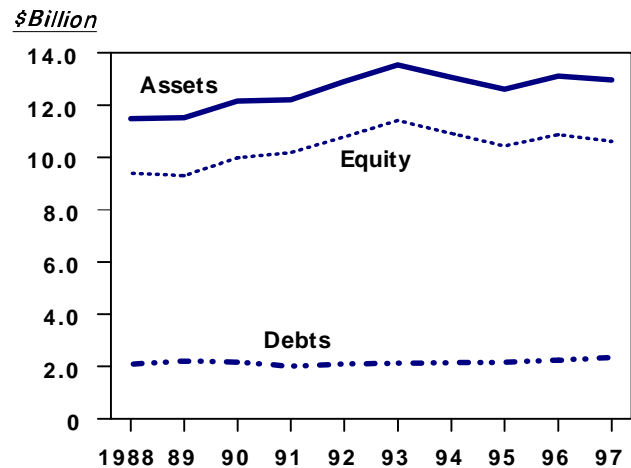


Table 4. **FARM BALANCE SHEET**, December 31, 1988-1997

Item	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Million dollars</i>										
<b>FARM ASSETS</b>	11,494	11,517	12,155	12,208	12,901	13,548	13,070	12,613	13,108	12,967
Real estate	7,341	7,226	7,768	7,968	8,536	9,190	8,786	8,527	8,892	8,892
Livestock and poultry <u>1/</u>	1,158	1,291	1,258	1,263	1,303	1,294	1,242	1,138	1,176	1,138
Machinery and Motor vehicles <u>2/</u>	1,806	1,803	1,847	1,836	1,832	1,856	1,822	1,835	1,853	1,840
Crops <u>3/</u>	451	475	540	420	439	380	388	352	392	266
Purchased inputs	71	60	74	66	92	88	122	88	119	139
Financial	667	662	666	655	700	740	710	673	677	692
<b>FARM DEBT <u>4/</u></b>	2,093	2,208	2,169	2,010	2,105	2,133	2,150	2,171	2,238	2,352
Real estate	931	1,032	901	850	878	879	878	854	851	839
Nonreal estate	1,162	1,176	1,268	1,160	1,227	1,253	1,271	1,318	1,387	1,513
<b>EQUITY</b>	9,401	9,309	9,985	10,198	10,796	11,415	10,920	10,442	10,870	10,615
Debt/equity	22.3	23.7	21.7	19.7	19.5	18.7	19.7	20.8	20.6	22.2
Debt/assets	18.2	19.2	17.8	16.5	16.3	15.7	16.4	17.2	17.1	18.1

**SOURCE:** Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1/ Excludes horses, mules, and broilers.

2/ Include only farm share value for trucks and autos.

3/ All non-CCC crops held on farms plus the value above loan rate for crops held under CCC.

4/ Excludes debt for nonfarm purposes.